

## 4.10 PUBLIC SERVICES

This section evaluates the effects of the proposed project on public services by identifying anticipated demands on existing and planned service availability. The Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP [Appendix 1]) identified the potential for impacts associated with fire and police protection. Issues scoped out from detailed analysis in the EIR include schools or other governmental facilities (i.e., libraries and civic buildings/auditoriums). Parks are analyzed separately in Section 4.11 (Recreation) of this EIR. Similarly, impacts related to emergency access are analyzed in Section 4.12 (Transportation/Traffic) of this EIR.

Data used to prepare this section were taken from various sources, including correspondence with the City of Huntington Beach Police and Fire Departments (included as Appendix 11). Full bibliographic entries for all reference materials are provided in Section 4.10.8 (References) at the end of this section.

All comments received in response to the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) circulated for the proposed project were taken in to consideration during preparation of this Environmental Impact Report, and if relevant, have been addressed in this section or others within this document.

### 4.10.1 Environmental Setting

#### ■ Fire Protection

Fire protection and emergency services in the vicinity of the proposed project are provided by the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD). Two of the eight HBFD stations operate in the vicinity of the proposed project site and would serve the site.<sup>63</sup> These stations are listed below in Table 4.10-1 along with staffing and equipment at each station. Figure 4.10-1 (Fire and Police Facilities) illustrates the location of the stations relative to the project site.

Table 4.10-1 Fire Stations Serving Project Site			
<i>Station Number</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Area Served</i>	<i>Equipment/Staffing</i>
Station 1	18311 Gothard Street	Oakview area, Five Points, and Central Park	1 Command Vehicle 1 Paramedic Engine Company 1 Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulance
Station 6	18591 Edwards Street	Seacliff area	1 Paramedic Engine Company 1 Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulance Hazardous Materials Response Unit

SOURCE: McBride, David. Deputy Fire Marshal. 2007. Huntington Beach Fire Department. Written correspondence. May 29.

<sup>63</sup> McBride, David. Deputy Fire Marshal. 2007. Huntington Beach Fire Department. Written correspondence. May 29.

Fire Station 1 is located less than ½ mile east of the project site, and would provide first-response service. The Central Net Training Center, which is a multi-agency training facility used by the cities of Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach, is located adjacent to Station 1.

Fire Station 6 is the City's newest fire station and it opened in 2000. Fire Station 6 is located less than ¾ miles southwest of the project site, and would provide secondary response and hazardous materials response services to the site. This station serves the Seacliff area; however, it houses the HBFD's Hazardous Materials Response Unit and a Paramedic Engine company. Depending on the type of response, station personnel will staff the appropriate apparatus.<sup>64</sup>

Criteria for evaluating acceptable levels of service and for determining the thresholds of significance associated with service levels are based on HBFD criteria. According to the City General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element, the HBFD's emergency response time objective, including participation by other cities in the automatic aid agreement, is for the first fire or paramedic unit to arrive within 5 minutes, 80 percent of the time. The non-emergency response time goal is 15 minutes, 85 percent of the time.<sup>65</sup> According to the HBFD, the department currently responds to all emergency calls in the City in less than 5 minutes, and responds to non-emergency calls in approximately 5 minutes. Each station is staffed with one Captain, one engineer, two firefighter paramedics, and a two person Basic Life Support ambulance. The Battalion Chief is also staffed at Station 1. Further, the existing firefighter-to-population ratio of 0.66 firefighters per 100 residents is considered acceptable by the HBFD, and no plans for additional staff are anticipated.<sup>66</sup>

Additional staff is available to the City, as needed, through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with Orange County and other cities including Westminster, Santa Ana, Newport Beach, Fountain Valley, and Costa Mesa. The City receives and provides staffing assistance from and to other fire agencies on a countywide and statewide basis through the Office of Emergency Services when a large fire or disaster occurs.

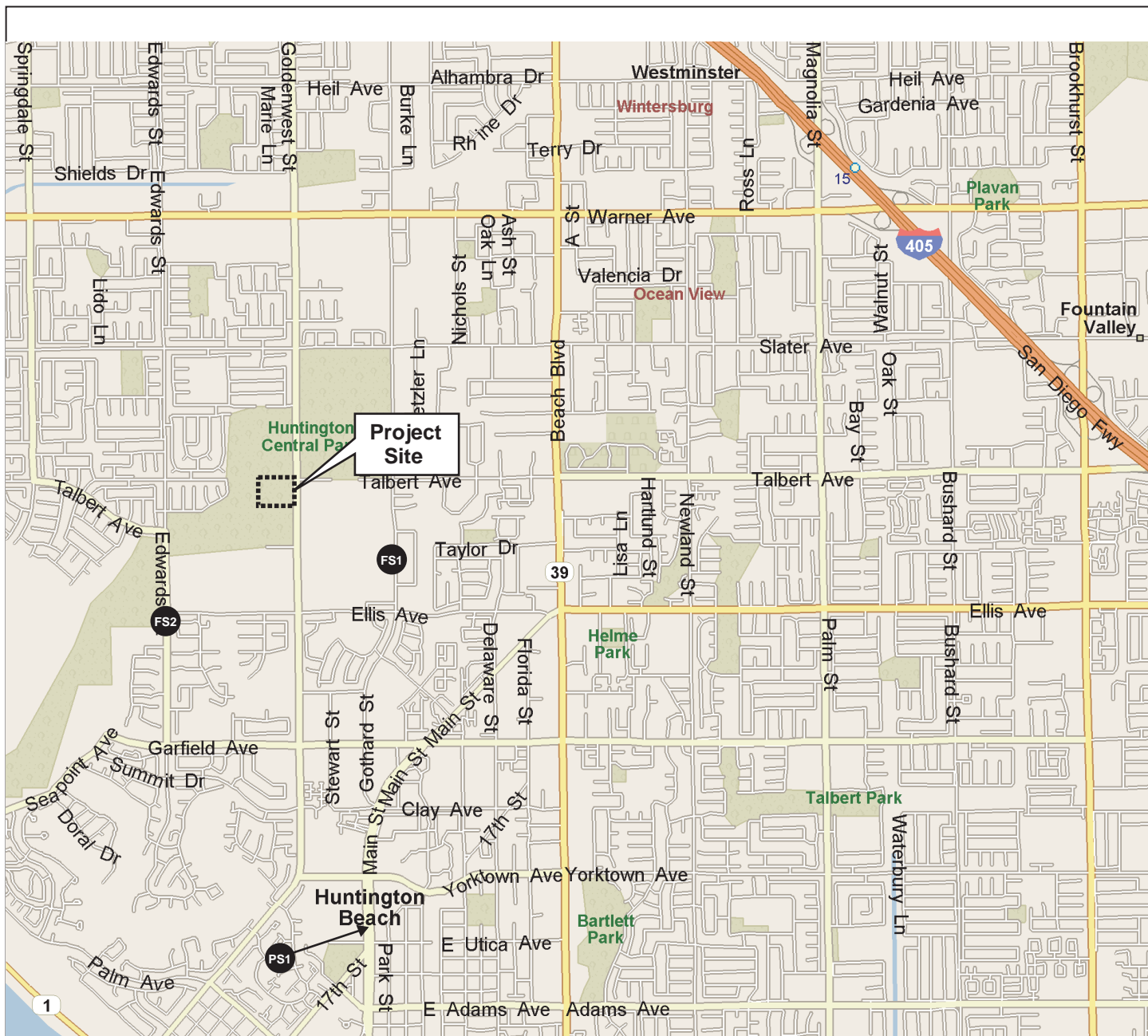
Water service for domestic use and fire flows are provided to the project area by the City of Huntington Beach. The local water main system is a combined domestic and fire protection water grid system. This system provides adequate water pressure and volume to the area surrounding the proposed project site for purposes of fire suppression and domestic water use. In accordance with the *California Fire Code* (described below under Regulatory Framework), minimum fire flows are generally achieved and maintained.

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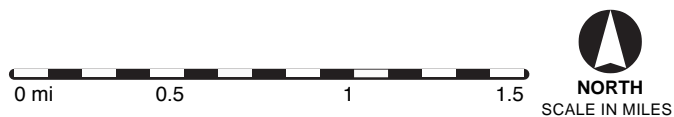
<sup>64</sup> Huntington Beach, City of. 2007. Fire Stations website. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/CityDepartments/Fire/Fire\\_Operations/FireStations/FireStations.cfm](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/CityDepartments/Fire/Fire_Operations/FireStations/FireStations.cfm). Accessed April 18, 2007.

<sup>65</sup> Huntington Beach, City of. 1996. Huntington Beach General Plan, Public Facilities and Public Services Element. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/public\\_facilities\\_element.pdf](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/public_facilities_element.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> McBride, David. Deputy Fire Marshal. 2007. Huntington Beach Fire Department. Written correspondence. May 29.



Legend	
	Fire Stations
	Police Station
	Project Site



Sources: Microsoft Trips and Streets, 2006; EIP Associates, a Division of PBS&J, 2007.



A division of **PBS&J**

**FIGURE 4.10-1**  
**Fire and Police Facilities**

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## ■ Police Protection

The Huntington Beach Police Department (HBPD) provides police protection services within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Huntington Beach. The Main Station, located at 2000 Main Street, is approximately two miles south of the project site and is responsible for providing first-response service to the project area (Figure 4.10-1).

The City of Huntington Beach had an approximate 2006 population of 201,000 persons.<sup>67</sup> Currently, approximately 185 sworn officers are employed by HBPD, representing an estimated ratio of 0.92:1 officers per 1,000 residents. The average emergency response time within the City is approximately 6.5 minutes, while the average non-emergency response time is variable and generally longer than nine minutes<sup>68</sup>. While the HBPD does not use a police officer per population ratio to determine their staffing needs, the Growth Management Element of the General Plan established a target ratio of 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents as a minimal standard.<sup>69</sup> The HBPD indicated that they currently provide at least a minimum level of service to the City, and are working to decrease response times.<sup>70</sup>

The HBPD utilizes the “beat cop” system, which the City initiated in 2000. The City is divided into twelve beat areas, and each beat is assigned an officer to provide the beat area with 24 hours per day, seven days per week coverage. Under the Beat Command System, each beat officer is assigned the responsibility of Community Oriented Policing, which is a philosophy of working and communicating with the community to identify services needed, and problem solving in their respective beat areas. Each beat is also assigned a sergeant to supervise and assist in the Community Oriented Policing activities within the beat area. The proposed project site is located in Area 8 of the City’s Beat Command System. Depending on the time of day and year, this beat system allows for quick response time and specific beat coverage unless officers are called upon by nearby beat officers for backup.

Law enforcement services require certain equipment, in addition to staff, in order to maintain an acceptable level of service. Existing HBPD equipment includes vehicles, radios, and mobile data terminals. HBPD has indicated that they are currently at acceptable equipment levels<sup>71</sup>. In an attempt to expand the force, there are currently two new officer positions in the new fiscal budget.<sup>72</sup>

The City receives and provides staffing assistance from and to other police departments on a citywide and countywide basis for law enforcement services. Additional staff is available to the City, as needed, through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements with the county and state.

The City also operates an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which provides emergency management and preparedness services to the City in the event of a major disaster or incident. In the event of

<sup>67</sup> State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change—January 1, 2005 and 2006. Sacramento, California, May 2006.

<sup>68</sup> Junginger, Craig, Lieutenant. 2007. Huntington Beach Police Department. Written correspondence. April 19.

<sup>69</sup> Huntington Beach, City of. 2002. Huntington Beach General Plan, Growth Management Element. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/growth\\_management\\_element.pdf](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/growth_management_element.pdf).

<sup>70</sup> Junginger, Craig, Lieutenant. 2007. Huntington Beach Police Department. Written correspondence. April 19.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

emergencies involving earthquakes, tsunamis, civil disturbances, energy crises, nuclear power plant emergencies, terrorism and acts of war, the EOC (located at City Hall) assures central coordination, public official alerting, care and shelter, evacuation, search and rescue, resource mobilization and recovery operate effectively. Activation of the EOC is required by the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) under the following conditions:

- On the request by a local government or county agency
- Two cities proclaiming a local emergency
- County Emergency Proclamation and a City Local Emergency Proclamation
- Request by any member of the OA for Governor's Proclamation
- State of Emergency proclaimed in Orange County or the State of California
- Request for Outside Resources by a member of the OA

In addition, the Orange County Sheriff's Department Emergency Management Bureau provides secondary emergency management and preparedness services to the Orange County Operational Area (OA), including the City of Huntington Beach.

The City is not identified as a particularly high crime area. The California Department of Justice maintains data on the number of major crimes for cities and counties for a given year, including violent crimes, and offenses such as burglary and motor vehicle theft. In 2005, Orange County experienced a violent crime rate of 1,063 per 100,000 residents.<sup>73</sup> This represents an increase in the County's violent crime rate in 2004 by approximately 11 percent. Despite this increase, Orange County experienced a much lower violent crime rate in 2005 than neighboring Los Angeles County, which experienced violent crime rates of 3,967 per 100,000 residents.<sup>74</sup> In 2005, the City of Huntington Beach experienced a total of 466 violent crimes.<sup>75</sup> This is comparable to the level of crime for the cities of Irvine, Orange, Buena Park, and other comparably sized cities in Orange County, and in keeping with the crime level expected for a city of its size.

## 4.10.2 Regulatory Framework

### ■ Federal

There are no federal regulations related to fire and/or police protection applicable to the proposed project.

### ■ State

#### Uniform Fire Code

The California Fire Code contains regulations relating to construction and maintenance of buildings and the use of premises. Topics addressed in the code include fire department access, fire hydrants, automatic sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, fire and explosion hazards safety, hazardous materials storage and

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<sup>73</sup> Orange County Health Department. 2006. Orange County Crime Statistics for 2001-2005.

<sup>74</sup> Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. 2006. Crime and Arrest Statistics 2005.

<sup>75</sup> Huntington Beach Police Department website. 2007. <http://www.hbpd.org/cstats.htm>. Accessed April 18, 2007.

use, provisions intended to protect and assist first responders, industrial processes, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and premises. The code contains specialized technical regulations related to fire and life safety.

## California Health and Safety Code

State fire regulations are set forth in *Sections 13000 et seq.* of the *California Health and Safety Code*, which include regulations concerning building standards (as also set forth in the *California Building Code*), fire protection and notification systems, fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms, high-rise building and childcare facility standards, and fire suppression training.

## ■ Local

### *City of Huntington Beach Municipal Code*

#### Fire Code

The *California Fire Code*, discussed above under State regulations, is adopted by the City under *Chapter 17.56* of the *City's Municipal Code*. The Fire Code includes regulations concerning building standards, fire truck and apparatus access to structures, fire protection devices such as extinguishers and smoke alarms, and fire suppression training.

### *General Plan Public Facilities and Public Services Element*

The City of Huntington Beach Public Facilities and Public Services Element is concerned with identifying, maintaining, and enhancing fire and police protection services. Applicable goals and policies of this Element include the following:

- Goal PF 1** Protect the community from criminal activity, reduce the incidence of crime and provide other necessary services within the City.
  - Objective PF 1.1** Provide adequate police facilities and personnel to correspond with population and service demands, and provide protection for the community from illicit activities and crime.
    - Policy PF 1.1.1** Enhance and maintain personnel and facilities in the City's Police Department necessary to provide response times at standards determined by the Growth Management Element.
  - Objective PF 1.3** Ensure that new developments in Huntington Beach are designed to encourage safety.
    - Policy PF 1.3.2** Ensure that new development and land use proposals are analyzed to determine the impact on their operators, occupants, visitors, or customers may have on the safety and welfare of the community.
- Goal PF 2** Ensure adequate protection from fire and medical emergencies for Huntington Beach residents and property owners.

**Objective PF 2.1** Provide fire protection and paramedic services to all parts of the city of Huntington Beach.

**Policy PF 2.1.3** Maintain adequate facilities and personnel by periodically evaluating population growth, response time and fire hazards.

**Objective PF 2.3** Attempt to achieve “built in” fire protection for all structures.

**Policy PF 2.3.1** Continue to require all structures to follow all State and nationally recognized fire codes.

**Policy PF 2.3.2** Ensure that new construction is designed with fire and emergency access and safety in mind.

### ***General Plan Growth Management Element***

The City of Huntington Beach Growth Management Element addresses fire and police services. Applicable goals and policies of this element include the following:

**Goal GM 1** Provide adequate police services to meet the needs of the City’s population.

**Objective GM 1.1** Provide adequate police facilities and personnel to correspond with population and service demands for the entire City.

**Policy GM 1.1.2** If feasible, provide for a target ratio of a minimum of 1.2 officers per thousand population.

**Policy GM 1.1.7** Ensure that new development site design incorporates measures to maximize policing safety and security.

**Goal GM 2** Provide adequate fire and paramedic services to meet the needs of the City’s population.

**Objective GM 2.1** Provide adequate fire and paramedic facilities and personnel to correspond with population and service demands for the entire City.

**Policy GM 2.1.2** Provide a 5-minute response time for emergency fire services at least 80% of the time.

**Policy GM 2.1.3** Provide a 5-minute response time for paramedic services at least 80% of the time.

**Policy GM 2.1.4** Ensure that new development site design incorporates measures to maximize fire safety and prevention.

### **Consistency Analysis**

The proposed project is required to follow all applicable State and local laws with respect to fire safety. Compliance with the regulations of the California Fire Code pertaining to fire protection systems and equipment, general safety precautions, and many other general and specialized fire-safety requirements for new and existing buildings and premises, would ensure consistency with the General Plan goals and



policies related to new construction and site design. Additionally, the HBFD has indicated that it can provide adequate service to the project site within the established response time of five minutes<sup>76</sup>. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the General Plan policies related to adequacy of facilities, staffing, and response time.

Existing police protection services that are currently provided to the project area would continue to be used, and the level of service would not diminish as a result of project implementation. In addition, implementation of the proposed project would not require additional officers for the HBPD to maintain the existing response time standards<sup>77</sup>. Consequently, the proposed project would not conflict with the applicable goals and policies of the City's General Plan.

### 4.10.3 Project Impacts and Mitigation

#### ■ Analytic Method

##### *Fire*

Impacts on fire protection services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in inadequate staffing levels, response times, and/or increased demand for services that would require the construction of new fire protection facilities or the expansion of existing fire protection facilities that may have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The HBFD has established objectives for response times for emergency and non-emergency events. The following analysis considers the potential impacts of the proposed development on the HBFD's objective for emergency response within 5 minutes, 80 percent of the time. The HBFD's response time could be affected by inadequate staffing levels caused by increases in demands.

##### *Police*

Although a target ratio is discussed in the Growth Management Element, the HBPD does not use a police officer per population ratio to determine their staffing needs. The HBPD does not have any standard criteria for assessing the significance of impacts to service levels, or emergency response times. Alternatively, impacts on police protection services are considered significant if an increase in population or building area would result in inadequate staffing levels (as measured by the ability of the HBPD to respond to call loads) and/or increased demand for police services that would require the construction or expansion of new or altered police protection facilities.

#### ■ Thresholds of Significance

The following thresholds of significance are based on Appendix G to the 2007 CEQA Guidelines. For purposes of this EIR, implementation of the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact if it would result in any of the following:

<sup>76</sup> Junginger, Craig, Lieutenant. 2007. Huntington Beach Police Department. Written correspondence. April 19.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:
  - > Fire Protection
  - > Police Protection
  - > Schools
  - > Parks
  - > Other Public Facilities

## ■ Effects Not Found to Be Significant

The following issue areas were determined to result in no impacts according to the IS/NOP prepared for the project.

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools?
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The proposed project does not include any residential development. As such, the City's population would not increase as a result of the proposed project, nor would there be a subsequent increase in the demands for schools. No impact would occur, and this issue will not be further analyzed in this section.

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives parks?
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The proposed project includes the development of a senior recreational center that would increase the level of recreational facilities available within the City. It would not result in the need for additional recreational facilities to be constructed to accommodate the proposed project. No impact would occur, and this issue will not be further analyzed in this section. However, further discussion of park and recreational facilities is provided in Section 4.11 (Recreation) of this EIR.

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for other public facilities or governmental services?
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The proposed project does not include the development of residential units, which would increase demand for use of public facilities including libraries and civic buildings/auditoriums. No impact would occur, and this issue will not be further analyzed in this section.

## ■ Impacts and Mitigation

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection?
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**Impact 4.10-1      Implementation of the proposed project would not require the construction of new or physically altered fire protection facilities in order to maintain an acceptable level of service.**

Development of the proposed project would result in the construction of a senior center recreational facility, and would not result in an increase in the City's residential population. The proposed project site would receive first response from Fire Station 1, which is located less than ½ mile east of the project site, and secondary response from Fire Station 6, located less than ¾ mile southwest of the project site. These stations together have one Command Vehicle, two Paramedic Engine Companies, two Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulances, and a Hazardous Materials Response Unit.

The HBFD has established objectives for providing response in approximately 5 minutes. As stated previously, the HBFD currently maintains this response time with existing facilities, equipment, and staffing. The HBFD has indicated that implementation of the proposed project would not significantly impact the level of service delivery to the project area<sup>78</sup>. As indicated by the HBFD, Fire Station 1 is adequately staffed and equipped to provide service response times within established objectives. It is, therefore, not anticipated that development of the proposed project would require new, expanded, or altered fire protection services or facilities to maintain the current level of service.

The quantity of water required for fire protection (i.e., fire flows) varies and is dependent upon many factors that are specific to each particular building, such as the floor area, type of construction, expected occupancy, type of activities conducted within the building, and the distance to adjacent buildings. Typically, all development plans are reviewed by the Fire Department prior to construction to ensure that adequate fire flows would be maintained, and that an adequate number of fire hydrants would be provided in the appropriate locations in compliance with the CFC. Therefore, although the site is not currently equipped with water distribution infrastructure, adequate fire flows would be required by law prior to construction. As such, impacts associated with the provision of fire protection services are considered *less than significant* and no mitigation is required.

<sup>78</sup> McBride, David. Deputy Fire Marshal. 2007. Huntington Beach Fire Department. Written correspondence. May 29.

Threshold	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection?
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**Impact 4.10-2      Implementation of the proposed project would not result in the need for new or physically altered police facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios.**

Currently, the HBPD provides an approximate emergency response time of 6.5 minutes as well as an estimated ratio of 0.96 officers per 1,000 residents. The HBPD has indicated that it currently has the appropriate personnel and equipment to continue to maintain an acceptable level of service and that implementation of the proposed project would not cause the HBPD service level to drop.<sup>79</sup>

Implementation of the proposed project would not alter the current personnel-to-population ratio. Since the proposed project does not include a residential component, the proposed project would not increase residential population. Therefore, project implementation would not affect the existing or future personnel-to-population ratios.

The addition of the proposed project could affect the Department resources since it would result in development on currently vacant land. However, the HBPD has indicated that it has the appropriate personnel and equipment to continue to maintain an acceptable level of service and that it can adequately provide service to the proposed project<sup>80</sup>. Further, persons on-site or elsewhere in the City would not be exposed to increased risks as a result of the additional demands on the police department. No new or physically altered facilities would be required to maintain the current level of service. Impacts would be *less than significant* and no mitigation is necessary.

## 4.10.4 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic context for the analysis of cumulative impacts to fire and police protection services is the City of Huntington Beach. The analysis accounts for all anticipated cumulative growth within this geographic area, as represented by full implementation of the *City of Huntington Beach General Plan*, as well as the specific development projects identified in Table 3-4 (List of Cumulative Projects) in Chapter 3 (Project Description).

As additional development occurs in the City, there may be an overall increase in the demand for police and fire protection services, including personnel, equipment, and/or facilities. The provision of adequate police and fire protection services is of critical importance to the City, and funds are allocated to these services during annual monitoring and budgeting processes to ensure that police and fire protection services are responsive to changes in the City. Funds collected in the form of plan check fees are deposited into the General Fund and allocated (in part) to City services, such as police and fire protection services. The cumulative impact, therefore, on police and fire services in the City would be less than

<sup>79</sup> Junginger, Craig, Lieutenant. 2007. Huntington Beach Police Department. Written correspondence. April 19.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

significant, as every development in the City is required to pay plan check fees that are used, in part, to maintain existing service levels for public services.

The proposed project's contribution to this cumulative impact is also less than significant because (1) the proposed project would not generate an increase in the City's residential population; (2) the project site is anticipated to be served within the established response times and distances for the HBFD, while providing adequate fire flows; (3) implementation of the proposed project can be accommodated within existing and future HBPD staffing capabilities; and, (4) no new or physically altered facilities would be constructed to accommodate the proposed project. Further, the HBFD and HBPD concluded that the proposed project would not be anticipated to contribute to cumulative impacts associated with other projects proposed to be implemented within the City.<sup>81</sup> Therefore, the contribution of the proposed project to cumulative impacts on fire and police protection services would not be cumulatively considerable. This is considered to be a *less-than-significant* impact.

## 4.10.5 References

- Huntington Beach, City of. 1996. Huntington Beach General Plan, Public Facilities and Public Services Element. [http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/public\\_facilities\\_element.pdf](http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/files/users/planning/public_facilities_element.pdf)
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<sup>81</sup> Junginger, Craig, Lieutenant. 2007. Huntington Beach Police Department. Written correspondence. April 19.  
 McBride, David. Deputy Fire Marshal. 2007. Huntington Beach Fire Department. Written correspondence. May 29.

